(Ireland.)

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To extend the Powers given by former Acts for purchasing or hiring Land in Connection with or for the Use of Poor Houses in Ireland, in order to afford the Means of applying the Labour of Paupers to their own Support.

[Note.—The Words printed in *Italics* are proposed to be inserted in the Committee.]

Preamble:

Power under former Acts to purchase or hire Land.

2 Vict. c. 56.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the second year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the more effectual Relief of the Destitute Poor of Ireland," power was given to the Commissioners to purchase or hire any land of any tenure, not exceeding Twelve Acres Imperial measure, for the purpose of building a Workhouse thereon, or to be occupied with any such Workhouse:

10 Vict. c. 31.

And whereas, by another Act passed in the tenth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act to make further Provision for the Relief of the Destitute Poor in Ireland," further power was given to the Commissioners to purchase or hire Land not exceeding Three Statute Acres, in addition to the aforesaid Twelve Acres, to be used for the site of a Fever Ward, or for a Cemetery, or for such other purpose as the said Commissioners might approve:

Necessary to extend the powers for hiring land for the purposes of certain Unions.

And whereas in many Unions in Ireland it has been found necessary to give extensive relief to able-bodied persons, both in and out of the Workhouse, and it is therefore desirable that the powers of the Commissioners to authorize the hiring of Land should be further extended,

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in order that persons receiving such relief might be caused to give work in aid of their own support, by means of which the labour test of destitution could be more effectually applied, and the amount of taxation on the Union reduced; and the further purpose might be attained of giving instruction to such persons in improved cultivation, and of practically exhibiting the beneficial results of such improved cultivation on the lands so cultivated:

1. Boards of Guardians or (in case of a dissolved Board) Six Cess-payers may memorialize the Commissioners for liberty to hire additional land.

Commissioners to direct a meeting of Cess-payers to be called, to consider the application. 2 Vict. c. 56, s. 51.

If application be approved and signed by a majority in value at the meeting; the Commissioners, with consent of the Lord Lieutenant, may authorize the hiring of so much land as may be necessary.

Board of Guardians may thereupon contract for the same, subject to the approval of the Commissioners.

Proviso: The quantity shall not exceed One hundred Statute Acres.

BE it therefore Enacted, by The QUEEN's most Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, THAT it shall be lawful for any Board of Guardians, or a majority of such Board, or (in case of the Board of Guardians of any Union having been dissolved by the authority vested in the Commissioners for that purpose) for any Six Rate-payers of such Union, liable to pay rates on a valuation in the rate-books of not less than *Twenty Pounds*, to memorialize the Commissioners to give authority for the hiring of such additional quantity of land as may be deemed necessary for the aforesaid purposes, according to the circumstances of the Union; whereupon it shall be lawful for the Commissioners to direct that a meeting of the Rate-payers be called, in the manner and form which is provided in the aforesaid first-recited Act, for the purpose of considering applications with regard to the emigration of poor persons; and if at any such meeting the application of the Guardians (or Cess-payers, as the case may be) shall be approved and signed by a majority in value of those present, it shall be lawful for the Commissioners, by and with the approval of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to authorize such Board of Guardians (or such paid Guardians, as the case may be), to hire such quantity of land as they shall think requisite for the purposes aforesaid; and it shall thereupon be lawful for such Board of Guardians (or such paid Guardians) to contract for the same, subject to the approval and directions of the Commissioners as to the quantity of land, and the terms and tenure of such contract: Provided always, That the quantity of land so hired under this Act shall not exceed *One hundred* Statute Acres.

2. To extend to Ireland only.

And be it Enacted, That this Act shall extend to Ireland only.

3. May be altered or repealed this Session.

And be it Enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

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